AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

No claim amendments have been made. The claims have been reproduced for the Examiner's and the applicants' convenience in addressing the Office Action.

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (original)

- 1. A method for dispersing solids in a medium that comprises at least one solid which comprises adding to said medium at least one silicone resin which is obtainable by reacting
 - a) an alkoxysiloxane of the general formula

$$R_a^2 Si(OR^1)_b O_{\underline{4-(a+b)}}$$

where

R¹ is a lower alkyl group,

R² is an alkyl or phenyl group,

a is from 1.0 to 1.2,

b is from 0.5 to 1.0,

with the proviso that at least 50% by weight corresponds to the formula $[R^2Si(OR^1)O]_n$, n = 3 to 8,

with

b) one or more hydroxyl-containing polyesters,

and, optionally,

c) one or more low molecular weight alcohols,

wherein it is possible for the alkoxysiloxane to be reacted partly or fully, based on the amount of (OR¹) groups in a), but the reaction being taken at least to the point where a clear solution is obtained.

Claim 2 (original)

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is a C₁-C₄ group.

Claim 3 (original)

The method according the claim 1 wherein R¹ is an ethyl radical.

Claim 4 (original)

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein R² is a phenyl radical.

Claim 5 (original)

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is an ethyl radical and R² is a phenyl radical.

Claim 6 (original)

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing polyester is the reaction product of at least one dicarboxylic acid or derivative thereof and at least one diol.

Claim 7 (original)

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing polyester is the reaction product of at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or its lactone and at least one diol.

Claim 8 (original)

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing polyester has a molar mass of from about 100 to about 10,000 g/mol.

Claim 9 (currently amended)

 The method according to claim 1, wherein the low molecular weight <u>alcohol</u> is a monohydric to tetrahydric alcohol or an amino alcohol.

Claim 10 (original)

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a liquid.

Claim 11 (original)

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a solid.

Claim 12 (original)

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid is a pigment.

Claim 13 (original)

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the pigment is an inorganic pigment selected from the group consisting of carbon blacks, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, Prussian blue, iron oxides, cadmium sulfide, chromium pigment and sulfates of lead, zinc, barium, calcium and mixtures thereof or an organic pigment selected from the group consisting of azo, diazo, condensed azo, naphtol, metal complex, thioindigo, indanthrone, isoindanthrone, anthraquinone, isodibenzanthrone, triphendioxazine, quinacridone, perylene, diketopyrrolopyrrole, and phthalocyanine pigments.

Claim 14 (original)

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid is a filler.

Claim 15 (original)

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the solid is selected from the group consisting of tale, kaolin, silicas, barytes, lime, oxides, silicates, zirconium oxides, titanium oxides, boron nitrides, silicon nitrides, boron carbides, mixed silicon-aluminum nitrides, metal titanates, magnetic oxides of transition metals, cobalt-doped iron oxides, ferrites, metals, and the alloys thereof, biocides, agrochemicals, and drugs.

Claim 16 (original)

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein a low molecular weight alcohol is present and is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, 2-

butanol, isobutanol, hexanol, dodecanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butanediol, hexanediol, diethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, trimethylolethane, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, ditrimethylolpropane, hexahydric alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, 2-butanol, isobutanol, hexanol dodecanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butanediol, hexanediol, diethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, trimethylolethane, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, ditrimethylolpropane, alcohols, dipentaerythritol, 2-aminoethanol, 2-(2-aminoethylamino)ethanol, triethanolamine, diethanolamine, propanolamine, 2-amino-1,3-propanediol, 2-aminoisobutanol, aminohexanol, aminophenylethanol, and hydroxyethylpyridine.

Claim 17 (original)

- 17. A pigment paste which comprises at least one pigment and a silicone resin obtainable by reacting
 - a) an alkoxysiloxane of the general formula

$$\text{R}^2_a\text{Si(OR}^1)_b\text{O}_{\underline{4-(a+b)}}$$

where

R¹ is a lower alkyl group,

R² is an alkyl or phenyl group,

a is from 1.0 to 1.2,

b is from 0.5 to 1.0,

with the proviso that at least 50% by weight corresponds to the formula $[R^2Si(OR^1)O]_n$, n = 3 to 8,

with

b) one or more hydroxyl-containing polyesters,

and, optionally,

c) one or more low molecular weight alcohols,

wherein it is possible for the alkoxysiloxane to be reacted partly or fully, based on the amount of (OR¹) groups in a), but the reaction being taken at least to the point where a clear solution is obtained.,

Claim 18 (original)

- 18. A printing ink or paint varnish which comprises a pigment and/or dye, optionally a solvent, and at least one silicone resin obtainable by reacting
 - a) an alkoxysiloxane of the general formula

$$R_a^2 SI(OR^1)_b O_{\underline{4-(a+b)}}$$

where

R¹ is a lower alkyl group,

R² is an alkyl or phenyl group,

a is from 1.0 to 1.2,

b is from 0.5 to 1.0,

with the proviso that at least 50% by weight corresponds to the formula $[R^2Si(OR^1)O]_n$, n = 3 to 8,

with

b) one or more hydroxyl-containing polyesters,

and, optionally,

c) one or more low molecular weight alcohols,

wherein it is possible for the alkoxysiloxane to be reacted partly or fully, based on the amount of (OR¹) groups in a), but the reaction being taken at least to the point where a clear solution is obtained.

Claim 19 (original)

19. The printing ink or paint varnish according to claim 18, wherein the pigment is carbon black.

Claim 20 (original)

- 20. A coating which comprises at least one solid, optionally a solvent, and at least one silicone resin obtainable by reacting
 - a) an alkoxysiloxane of the general formula

$$R_a^2$$
si(OR 1) $_b$ O $_{\underline{4-(a+b)}}$

where

R¹ is a lower alkyl group,

R² is an alkyl or phenyl group,

a is from 1.0 to 1.2,

b is from 0.5 to 1.0,

with the proviso that at least 50% by weight corresponds to the formula $[R^2Si(OR^1)O]_n$, n = 3 to 8,

with

b) one or more hydroxyl-containing polyesters,

and, optionally,

c) one or more low molecular weight alcohols,

wherein it is possible for the alkoxysiloxane to be reacted partly or fully, based on the amount of (OR¹) groups in a), but the reaction being taken at least to the point where a clear solution is obtained.

Claim 21 (currently amended)

21. The coating according to claim 20 which is a pigmented UV <u>curable</u> coating which comprises carbon black as the pigment.